

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the application identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.111 and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

By the above amendments, claims 17-20, 22, 23, 29 and 33 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 28 has been amended to recite the phrase "more than 2% by weight and less than 4% by weight with respect to the total weight of the polymer composition of a combination of inorganic fillers." Support for such amendment can be found in the instant specification at least at page 7, lines 15-27. In addition, claims 21, 24-27, 30 and 34 have been amended to depend from claim 28.

In the Official Action, claims 17-23 and 25-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over International Publication No. WO 02/02696 (*WO '696*). Claims 17-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *WO '696*. The Patent Office has relied on U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0087734 (*Bianchi et al*) as being an English language equivalent of *WO '696*. Withdrawal of the above rejections is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 28 is directed to a thermoplastic polymer composition comprising more than 2% by weight and less than 4% by weight with respect to the total weight of the polymer composition of a combination of inorganic fillers, said combination comprising at least two inorganic fillers selected from the group consisting of zinc sulfide, titanium dioxide, silica, alumina, kaolin, calcium carbonate, calcium sulfate and a mattifying clay, other than a polymer composition having a

polyester matrix and comprising a binary combination of titanium dioxide and of zinc sulfide.

Bianchi et al relates to a thermoplastic polymer composition comprising a polyamide and at least one compound for modifying the hydrophilicity and/or the antistatic behavior. Paragraph [0011]. *Bianchi et al* discloses that the composition may, in particular, contain a delustrant. Paragraph [0042].

Bianchi et al does not disclose or suggest each feature recited in independent claim 28. For example, *Bianchi et al* does not disclose or suggest a thermoplastic polymer composition comprising more than 2% by weight and less than 4% by weight with respect to the total weight of the polymer composition of a combination of inorganic fillers, said combination comprising at least two inorganic fillers selected from the group consisting of zinc sulfide, titanium dioxide, silica, alumina, kaolin, calcium carbonate, calcium sulfate and a mattifying clay. By comparison, *Bianchi et al* discloses specific ranges of the proportion by weight of delustrant in the compositions of "between 0.2 and 0.5%", "between 0.5 and 1%", and "between 1% and 2%". See paragraph [0043]. That is, *Bianchi et al* is primarily concerned with the use of a delustrant in an amount less than 2%. There is simply no disclosure or suggestion of employing more than 2% by weight and less than 4% by weight with respect to the total weight of the polymer composition of the combination of inorganic fillers specified in claim 1.

Applicants have discovered that employing such specific range of the combination of inorganic fillers, together with the specific combination of inorganic fillers, in accordance with an exemplary aspect of the present invention, can, for example, result in a surprising increased degree of mattness. *Bianchi et al* has no

recognition or suggestion of attaining such a surprising increased degree of
mattness in connection with the specific combination of inorganic fillers, together with
the specific range of such combination of inorganic fillers.

For at least the above reasons, it is submitted that independent claim 28 is
neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious over *Bianchi et al.* As such, withdrawal
of the above §102(b)/§103(a) and §103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

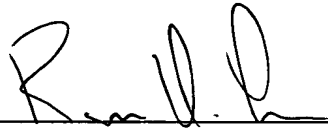
From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of
Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is earnestly solicited. If
there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the
Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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